



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

PROGRAM MEMORANDUM

TO: Career Education Administrators and Health Occupation Teachers

FROM: Tom Quinn
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Career Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Quinn", is placed to the right of the "FROM:" line.

DATE: August 27, 2008

SUBJECT: #2008-07 – Recognition of HOSA as a Missouri CTSO

The Division of Career Education is pleased to announce the Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA) is now officially recognized as a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) in Missouri. This is a long-overdue formality, as DESE already recognizes HOSA for program improvement and school accreditation (MSIP) purposes.

Currently, there are eight Missouri CTSOs recognized by DESE, several ranked among the largest state CTSOs in the nation. They are FFA, DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, SkillsUSA, TSA, PBL, and Delta Epsilon Chi. All recognized CTSOs work to improve their members' leadership, personal characteristics, and employability skills through numerous activities, such as skills contests, community and school service, and leadership development opportunities.

HOSA is one of the national CTSOs endorsed and recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. HOSA's Web site (www.hosa.org) indicates that it has over 90,000 members nationally in 2,600 secondary and postsecondary programs across the U.S. and Missouri. HOSA state director, Ms. Leslie Quint, RN, BSN, Four Rivers Career Center, indicates that its current membership in Missouri is approximately 200 students.

As you know, a CTSO affiliation is a condition for each approved local career education program approved by the Division of Career Education. Missouri's health sciences programs also continue to be supported by SkillsUSA. Additionally, the Technology Student Association (TSA) offers support for Missouri health sciences programs, particularly for biomedical sciences and medical engineering students.

This recognition does not imply an immediate commitment of state staff toward supporting Missouri HOSA activities. Ms. Emily Harper, a supervisor of Industrial and Health Sciences Education, currently works with the SkillsUSA advisors and students in the health sciences field. She can be contacted for questions at emily.harper@dese.mo.gov or by phone at (573) 522-5811.